



Tapuitema

...ina ia manino le folauā.

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For additional news, information and much, much, more about your government, visit the ASG Website at <http://www.americansamoa.gov>

High risk special conditions lifted after USDOE approves ASG's Corrective Action Plan

Governor Togiola Tulafono is happy to announce that the US Department of Education has approved the American Samoa Government's Corrective Action Plan (CAP), thus lifting the 'high risk' special conditions on drawing down 2007 grant funds.

Togiola received the good news through a letter from USDOE Director of Risk Management Service Mr. Philip A. Maestri who said that the CAP submitted by ASG is approved, and the submission of the final Payroll Attestation Report issued by R.C. Holsinger & Associates P.C.'s (RCHA) has been received. This means ASG has met the conditions originally imposed in the FFY 2007 special conditions and therefore, under the terms of the FFY 2008 special conditions, all FFY 2007 grant funds remaining available for obligation or liquidation are now available for draw down by ASG.

"Funds under ASG's FFY 2008 grant awards are also now available for drawdown by ASG; however, a restriction applies to the draw down of FFY 2008 grant funds," Maestri wrote. The

USDOE will allow ASG to draw down only up to 50% of the funds available in each FFY 2008 grant award issued on or after the date of the FFY 2008 special conditions, until such time that ASG has submitted the FY 2007 single audit to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse, and submitted an acceptable PCAP to the USDOE.

Maestri said that ASG has developed and submitted to the USDOE a PCAP, and they are in the process of reviewing it and will respond to ASG under separate cover as to approval or any changes required prior to approval. In addition, ASG will be notified when it has met the requirements necessary for removal of the restriction on drawing down FFY 2008 grant funds.

"This is wonderful news because we have worked hard on our action plans and we have addressed all the concerns by the US Department of Education," Governor Togiola said. "We can now draw down those funds," and "we now address the two conditions for 2008 funds and once that is approved, we also draw down those funds."

The Governor said the recent announcement is en-

couraging, "because we have an ongoing commitment to provide quality education for our children, so we're very thankful and appreciate this great news from the US Department of Education, and we will continue to work even harder because there is still a lot of work to be done."

Maestri said that ASG will now be required to report semiannually on its progress under the CAP. (These CAP semiannual reports will replace the semiannual high-risk reports that were required under previous versions of ASG's special conditions i.e. the program progress and expenditure reports).

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The semiannual report will include progress in implementing measures required under the CAP, including the current status of ASG's implementation of the various measures and, if necessary, any changes in the targeted completion dates

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October proclaimed as Youth and Domestic Violence Month

Governor Togiola Tulafono has proclaimed the month of October as Youth and Domestic Violence Month.

(Also, October 19-25 is Drug Free Samoa Awareness Week).

In his proclamation signed October 1, Governor Togiola wrote, “Youth is held in high esteem as a valuable resource for the future of American Samoa,” and therefore, “they must be protected from violence and the influence of illegal drugs, alcohol, and substances....lifestyles and diseases.”

Togiola said the youth must be motivated to reach higher levels of education and to learn the skills to utilize our marine and land resources. In addition, he said the youth should be empowered to face challenges of the new millennium.

The Governor is encouraging the people of American Samoa to join the collaborative effort of the Department of Youth and Women’s Affairs and all youth service agencies in the territory in celebrating and participating in their events planned for this month.

Fono session closes with no action on bill seeking \$6.6M to pay for Laufou judgment

The 30th Legislature closed last week without any action from the Senate on the Administration’s bill seeking \$6.6 million to pay a court judgment against the ASG for the Laufou Shopping Center fire.

The House of Representatives approved its version of the bill and forwarded it to the Senate, whose version was tabled.

No action from the Senate means the measure is automatically defeated, and the Administration would have to re-submit the bill next year when the new Legislature convenes in January.

This is, of course, if the Governor does not call a special session before the year is out.

The High Court has ruled that it was the negligence of the DPS Fire Bureau that caused a fire that firefighters should have been able to put out in 15 minutes, to turn into a blazing inferno that completely consumed the former Laufou Shopping Center.

ASG has filed an appeal of ruling, which is expected to be heard when the Appellate Division of the High Court convenes next year.

Senate President Lolo Moliga said the Senate does not oppose the court’s ruling; however, the concern is that the matter would serve as a precedent in which the government will be responsible to pay large sums of money in lawsuits, when the ASG does not have enough money and cannot afford such huge judgments.

Meanwhile, the failure of the Senate to act on the measure will not stop the interest rate on the judgment, which is estimated to be about \$500K annually.

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov or Tialuga Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)

Territory awarded over \$928K from the USDOE Rehabilitation Services Administration

American Samoa has been awarded \$928,801 under the fiscal year 2008 funding cycle from the US Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration.

(RSA oversees grant programs that assist individuals with physical or mental disabilities with obtaining employment and living more independently through providing

support like counseling, medical and psychological services, job training, and other individualized services.)

The funding represents the annual allotments but do not include any adjustments from funds that may be the result of funds relinquished or disbursed through the reallocation process as required by the

Rehabilitation Act.

The local Rehabilitation Office was recently transferred from the Department of Human and Social Services to the Governor's Office.

**KEEP
AMERICAN
SAMOA CLEAN!**

ASPA employees to get training from off island engineer

Transmission and distribution supervisors, engineers, technicians, and linemen from the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) will undergo a two-week training provided by an instructor engineer from Hittle and Associates in Washington state.

The training is part of a program that is OMIP funded and scheduled for launch at the end of the month. The award was granted in 2006 and totals \$34,209.

The training will include both classroom and field training sessions. Some of the topics that will be covered include staking practices and procedures, field measurements, National Electrical Safety Code, guys and anchors, distribution transformer, secondary loading, and pole strength.

ASPA's Chief Operating Officer Reno Vivao said that developing in-house design expertise is critical to making significant improvements in the operation and reliability of the territory's power distribution system.

In addition to this program, ASPA also recently received a grant award from the US Department of Interior in the amount of \$350,000 for the implementation of a solid waste in-house collection program. (See separate story on page 4 for more details).

High risk special conditions lifted by USDOE... *(continued from page 1)*

and/or person(s) responsible for ensuring that a particular corrective action is implemented.

Under the special conditions, if the report is not timely or is not considered acceptable, it may result in the USDOE reinstating quarterly reporting; imposing further conditions; recovering misspent funds; or implementing a contract with a third party to provide services.

Maestri concluded, "We appreciate your dedication and willingness to take actions necessary to improve ASG's internal and operational controls, and to improve the administration of Federal education funds. These actions will help improve ASG's accountability and strengthen its fiscal operations and reporting. We recognize that ASG's management is still facing significant challenges as it strives to improve its operations and oversight of ED's grant funds, but we are encouraged by the demonstrated actions ASG has taken to date in addressing its significant deficiencies. To that end, we look forward to your continued efforts and the benefits those efforts will bring to the children of American Samoa."

USDOJ Office of Insular Affairs awards \$350K grant to ASPA for solid waste program

The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) has received a \$350,000 grant from Nikolao Pula, Director of the US Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, for the implementation of ASPA's solid waste in-house collection program.

ASPA CEO Mike Keyser said the assistance and support from DOI has been tremendous, especially with its OMIP funded projects. "This funding to support phase I of our plans (bringing in-house the residential house to house collection) allows us to purchase state of the art equipment and training, and to create new jobs," he said. "Without DOI's assistance, this project becomes far less cost effective."

Earlier this year in March, Keyser and ASPA's manager of planning and special projects Andra Samoa traveled to Washington DC to submit various grant proposals, including a submission for the solid waste program to OMIP program manager Cheryl Jodoin.

Samoa said Cheryl has consistently been a cheerleader for the insular areas, especially programs that will build local capacity in management and technical areas, as well as improving services to the customers.

According to ASPA chief financial officer Francis Leasiolagi, the electric division has been subsidizing solid waste operations for over a decade, because the solid waste rates cover only about 20% of the bills received from T&T and Paramount.

Keyser explained that ASPA will combine funding from local funds, OMIP, and its Capital Improvement Project (CIP) program to cover the total cost of bringing all of the solid waste collections in-house.

The program will create over 20 new jobs, meaning a definite boost for the economy.

According to ASPA's solid waste division manager Petero Lafaele, forecasts indicate that the solid waste division will recover from its deficit crisis in two years, upon continuous operations in-house, reducing the high expense currently faced through outsourcing.

ASPA's solid waste division continues to face financial hardships since it was transferred from the Department of Public Works in 1995.

Fono passes bill appropriating \$1M for school buses; \$200K for MV Sili

The House of Representatives has approved the Senate version of an Administration bill that appropriates \$1 million to purchase 10 school buses for the Department of Education, and \$200,000 to pay for repairs to the government-owned MV Sili.

The bill goes into effect after it is signed by Governor Togiola Tulafono.

Funding for the bill is from the American Samoa Government's \$20-million-dollar loan from the ASG Employees' Retirement Fund.

The bill amends the language of the loan law by adding the MV Sili and the school bus purchase to the list of projects.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On October 11, 1949, a Court of Inquiry was "Convened at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, American Samoa, by Order of Commander, Service Force, United States Pacific Fleet, to inquire into all the circumstances connected with the explosion of gasoline in USS *Chehalis* AOG-48, the burning of USS *Chehalis* AOG-48, and the capsizing of USS *Chehalis* AOG-48, on October 7, 1949, at Tutuila, American Samoa."

On October 12, 1922, the German silver coins which were found behind the former DHPG building in American Samoa on April 10, 1919 (*q.v.*), and which were shipped to the U.S. Navy's Alien Property Custodian on October 3, 1922, were received by the Custodian in Washington, D.C. The money was contained in "one sealed box containing 1,074 two-mark and 356 one-mark German silver coins, for a total of 2,504 marks; 2,506 marks were found April 10, 1919; 2,504 marks were shipped October 3, 1922." (Perhaps a souvenir hunter kept the missing two marks---another unsolved mystery).

On October 13, 1856, Eli Hutchinson Jennings---adventurer, shipbuilder, planter and founder of the Jennings clan---landed with his wife Mere (also known as "Maria" and "Malie") on Swains Island and raised the U.S. flag.

On October 13, 1954, solo sailor William Willis, aboard his raft *The Seven Little Sisters*, sighted Tutuila 20 miles SSW of his position. He decided to attempt a landing in "British [*i.e.*, Western] Samoa," which had 200 miles of coastline, and thus afforded a larger target.

On October 14, 1954, the American Samoa Government's vessel *Manu'atele* sighted William Willis's raft *The Seven Little Sisters*, and towed it into Pago Pago Harbor.

On October 14, 1974, John Morse Haydon completed his term as American Samoa's ninth appointed civil governor.

On October 15, 1954, William Willis entered Pago Pago Harbor at 0100, having completed a 6700-mile solo journey from Callao, Peru at age 61 on his raft *The Seven Little Sisters*, which was towed into the harbor by the MV *Manu'atele*.

On October 15, 1956, Richard B. Lowe ended his term as American Samoa's fifth appointed civil governor (since October 1, 1953), and was succeeded by Peter Tali Coleman, who was American Samoa's only appointed Samoan governor, and the longest-serving governor in the Territory's history.

On October 15, 1974, Frank C. Mockler began his term as American Samoa's tenth appointed civil governor (acting: until February 6, 1975).

On October 16, 1877, Samoa's first mail service was inaugurated, as advertised in the "*Samoa Times: Navigator's Islands*." The notice read: "Mail Notice. A mail will be made up at this office to go by the schooner 'Energy' on Wednesday the 16th inst. for New Zealand, the Australian colonies, Europe and America. Mail will close at 6 a.m. W.E. Agar, Manager." The "Samoa Express" issued stamps in denominations of 1, 3 and 6 pence.

On October 16, 1956, Peter Tali Coleman began his term as American Samoa's sixth appointed civil governor, and first Samoan governor (until May 24, 1961).

On October 17, 1839, Lieutenant Charles Wilkes of the U.S. Exploring Expedition and members of the USS *Vincennes*' crew visited "Chief Toa" in the village of "Fungasar" [Fagasa, Tutuila]. Wilkes reported that "I was much struck here with the manliness of the natives, and with their frank, open expression of countenance."

On October 17, 1954, the honorary title "*Tautai 'o le Vasa Laolao*" ("Captain of the High Seas") was bestowed upon William Willis in American Samoa. He donated his raft *The Seven Little Sisters* to the Museum of American Samoa, which did not yet exist. The logs, neglected, subsequently deteriorated on the beach at Fagatogo.

Dengue fever outbreak heading toward epidemic levels

Another 22 new cases of dengue fever were confirmed last weekend, bringing the total number of cases so far this year to 184 and surpassing last year's total of 109. The figure includes only confirmed cases, although there are a number of cases that are suspected to be dengue and yet to be confirmed.

Department of Health Medical Director Dr. Ivan Tuliau says that they are worried about the high number of new confirmed cases, and the trend is cause to be concerned.

"We have continuously urged the territory's residents to practice the 3Ds of prevention and yet, the disease is still spreading, meaning there are still a high number of mosquito breeding sites out there," Tuliau said.

The 3Ds of prevention include: "Draining" standing water, "Dressing" in long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and using mosquito repellent that contains "DEET".

Everyone is encouraged to clean up around their homes and getting rid of anything that can hold standing water, as the mosquito that carries the dengue virus breeds in water. Mosquito-breeding sites include old tires, oil drums, buckets, ice cream containers, etc.

According to Tuliau, health officials met this week to work on their new outreach program that targets local schools. The goal is to kick start the new campaign as early as next week, to educate students on cleaning their surroundings, especially mosquito breeding sites.

The first and only local death caused by dengue fever this year is that of a 10-year-old boy who died last month.

DOH is willing to work with individual villages and/or organizations during the awareness campaign. Last year's campaign included collaboration with the Office of Samoan Affairs and village mayors.

"The situation is getting worse for American Samoa," Tuliau said in an earlier interview. "But we can beat this if we all work together. Prevention is the key."

DOH is upping its media campaign, which will include a weekly update on dengue cases, to be featured in the Samoa News. Tuliau said their office is open to any suggestions on how best to reach the community in a public awareness campaign.

DOH said in a statement, "We implore our community to step up cleaning efforts around the home, village, and school areas, to help promote the eradication of mosquito breeding sites."

Tuliau said this is something that the entire community needs to get involved with, in order to stop the spread of dengue fever.

In addition to American Samoa, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports that dengue fever cases are increasing in other Pacific countries like Fiji, with more than 1,800 cases, Samoa (500 cases), and about 800 cases in Tonga and Kiribati.

**LET YOUR VOICE BE
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ON NOVEMBER 4TH**

Shipment of much needed classroom furniture arrives in the territory

Public school teachers, students, as well as youngsters in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program in different locations across the territory will be receiving new classroom furniture which were paid for with money from Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) funding.

DOE officials have confirmed that four 40-foot containers of classroom furniture have arrived and the items will be distributed to different schools as early as this week.

The shipment includes about 2,000 desks/chairs, 100 round tables for ECE students, small desks for lower level students, and an estimated 200 desks for teachers.

DOE officials have already conducted visitations to different schools, and distribution of the shipment will be based on needs identified during those visits, as well as requests submitted from different schools.

The new furniture will surely address complaints from a number of parents who claim that some students have had to sit on the floor during school hours because of the lack of adequate classroom furniture.

With the arrival of the shipment, all local schools will have enough desks for each student (ECE through high school) throughout the school year.

The furniture cost an estimated \$174,647 and was purchased through Virco, a California-based company that DOE has dealt with many times in the past.

House passes bill that mandates use of Samoan language in public school instruction

The House of Representatives has approved a Senate bill that mandates using the Samoan language for classroom instruction within public schools.

The bill originally called for the use of English “or” Samoan language for classroom instruction but an amendment was made and later passed to use English “and” Samoan languages for classroom instruction.

Currently, local law requires public school instruction to be carried out using the English language, although Samoan may be used, when necessary, to facilitate teaching the English language.

According to the bill, the DOE director “shall ensure utilization of the Samoan language as the language of instruction where more appropriate to the subject matter.”

DOE Director Dr. Claire Poumele, who supports the measure, has explained that the majority of the students (90%) from kindergarten to level 3 understand the Samoan language while the text books are in English. Therefore, the Samoan language is being used in the classrooms to ensure that those students understand the subject matter.

She said that Samoan is being used as an option for teachers who use it as they see fit in their teaching methods, especially in the lower grade levels.

Feleti Barstow Public Library announces free upcoming computer class schedule

Adults interested in taking introductory computer classes can receive training at the Feleti Barstow Public Library in Utulei.

Computer classes are being offered every month for the remainder of the year, and the program is open to all adults who have little or no hands-on experience with computers.

The two-week courses will include an introduction to computer components, basic computer language, using Microsoft Word, setting up an e-mail account, and researching using the internet.

A mandatory deposit of \$10 is required for all students, although the money is fully refunded upon successful completion of the program.

Class sizes are limited so interested people are encouraged to register early. Registration must be done person.

The introductory computer class schedule is as follows:

- October 20-31, Monday-Friday from 9:15a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
- November 10-21, Monday-Friday from 3:00p.m. – 5:00p.m.

An Introduction to Microsoft “Excel” Program course will be offered from December 1-12, Monday-Friday from 9:15a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

More information can be obtained at the Library’s circulation desk, or by calling 633-5816.

Diesel Engine Donated to ASCC/ITT

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

According to Peter Crispin, president of local fuel suppliers Industrial Gasses, Tutuila uses just as much diesel fuel as gasoline. “You see the use of diesel all around us,” he said, “not just in vehicles, but also in the engines that power our industry and our infrastructure. Unfortunately, the number of certified diesel mechanics on island comes nowhere near the amount of diesel engines that need servicing and maintenance.” To help remedy this situation, Industrial Gasses donated a full diesel engine to the Institute of Trades and Technology (ITT) at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) this week, which the ITT will use as an instructional resource for its Diesel Technology Program.

ITT Dean Leusoga “Bill” Emmsley explained that the donation reflects the Institute’s policy of working closely with the local public and private sectors, and developing programs which will serve the needs of the community. “We have a community advisory board made up of representatives from local industries, including Industrial Gasses, and we listen closely to their ideas about the directions the technology used here is moving in. At the ITT, we try to align our curriculum as closely as possible to not only meet national standards, but also to meet the needs we have here in American Samoa. By involving our community partners in our planning, it also makes them aware of the occasions when their surplus resources can serve as highly valued instructional tools for the ITT, such as Industrial Gasses donating one of their diesel engines.”

The donation took place during an informal ceremony at the Industrial Gasses compound in Petesa, where Crispin and General Manager Andy Wearing hosted a group of ITT faculty and students. Crispin and Wearing both spoke about the current uses of diesel technology both in American Samoa and overseas, and how gaining expertise in this field can lead to rewarding careers. Although Industrial Gasses does not service diesel engines themselves, they utilize several as part of their operation, and the particular engine donated to the ITT served until recently to run one of the company’s generators. Crispin and Wearing gave a brief explanation of the engine to the ITT students, and also showed them several diesel-related projects the company has in progress.

Wearing shared his own experience of beginning an apprenticeship in diesel technology soon after leaving (the New Zealand equivalent of) high school. “It took me three years to complete my master’s certification,” he recalled, “but after that I could have moved into a number of different jobs.” Wearing’s experience enables him to do his own maintenance on the various diesel engines used at Industrial Gasses, and as a personal project, he has installed the automotive version of a diesel engine in a jeep, which he hopes to have up and running soon. The ITT students took particular interest in this vehicle and its engine. “In many countries, everyday people run their cars on diesel fuel, because it costs less,” Wearing explained. While this trend has yet to catch on in America, with the rising cost of fuel the day when we all drive cars with diesel engines may come sooner than we expect.

The ITT Diesel Technology Program started during the current semester, with instructor Fred Suisala guiding an initial class through the theoretical foundation. Students who continue on to the next level of instruction in diesel technology will have the opportunity to take a hands-on approach now that the ITT has its own diesel engine they can work with. “Next semester, Suisala’s students will methodically take the engine apart and put it back together,” said Leusoga. “This will give them a familiarity with how these engines function, and how to treat the various components. Without our own diesel engine, we could only talk in the classroom about how this technology works, but now the students can move from theory to practice.”

Leusoga, who expressed his gratitude to Peter Crispin and Industrial Gasses for their donation, also encouraged any local business that have machinery or technology items they no longer need to contact the ITT, who may find use for these items as instructional resources. For more information in the Institute of Trades and Technology at the American Samoa Community College, call ASCC at 699-9155 and ask for extension 325, 369 or 452.

Territory entitled to receive \$250K federal grant to improve 911 services

American Samoa is one of four US territories entitled to receive \$250,000 each under a federal grant program aimed at improving “911” services.

The funding is part of a \$41.3 million-dollar-grant program made available under the federal ENHANCE 911 Act.

The US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) propose that grant funds and matching funds be used either for the acquisition and deployment of hardware and software that enables compliance with Phase II E-911 services, or that enables migration to an IP-enabled emergency network, or for training in the use of such hardware or software.

US states and territories have until December 2, 2008 to submit grant applications.

Applications for Notary Public now being accepted

The Office of the Secretary of American Samoa has issued a public announcement regarding the Notary Act of 2007 and the acceptance of applications from those interested in becoming a Notary Public.

Earlier this year on May 2, Governor Togiola T.A. Tulafono signed into law the Notary Act of 2007, Public Law 30-18, as amended by Public Law 30-82. The new law establishes, among other things, new procedures and requirements for Notaries Public in the Territory. The new law will become effective on October 29, and all those who are interested in applying for a notary commission must satisfy certain requirements.

Applications can be picked up from the Office of the Secretary of American Samoa, located in the Governor’s Office on the third floor of the A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building in Utulei.

Applicants must attach to the application form, a fingerprint card from the Department of Public Safety, and pay a non-refundable application fee of \$100.

In addition, applicants must undergo and successfully complete a course on notary law, procedure and professional responsibility offered by the Office of the Secretary of American Samoa.

The initial notary course will be offered on October 15, 16, 22, and 23 at the American Samoa Community College from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Room A-14. Only 20 slots are available and will be awarded on a first-come first-serve basis.

Successful applicants will be notified through a letter from the Secretary and subsequently will be required to pay a \$500 security bond with the Treasury Department’s Revenue Office. A receipt of payment must be provided to the Secretary before a commission is issued. An applicant who is denied a commission will also be informed by letter and allowed to retake the exam on a date to be announced by the Secretary, but no later than 20 days from the date of the issuance of said letter.

Pursuant to Section 31.0304 of the Notary Act of 2007, P.L. 30-18, as amended by P.L. 30-82, existing notaries commissioned before the Act’s effective date will not be invalidated or terminated, but shall comply with the Notary Act when performing notarizations and in applying for new commissions.

On the effective date of the new law, no vendor or manufacturer may be authorized to issue notary seals or stamps to anyone without certification and authorization by the Secretary of American Samoa. Any vendor or manufacturer interested in issuing notary seals and stamps shall apply to the Secretary for a permit as required by Section 31.0341, P.L. 30-18, as amended by P.L. 30-82.

All interested individuals can contact the Governor’s Assistant Legal Counsel Talaimalo Marcellus Uiagalelei or Communications Director Jacinta Galea’i at the Governor’s Office for more information. Applications and additional information are available at www.americansamoa.gov.